

YOUR PROBLEMS
by Ann Landers



A Year in Viet Nam Described By Mrs. Thomsen in Christmas Letter

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'He Began His Dirty Work . . .'

Dear Ann Landers: The man I loved and trusted and invested three whole years in took his ring back and broke our engagement last night.

The trouble was started by Kenny's best friend whom I never liked. This friend resented me from the beginning because after I came into the picture Kenny didn't pal around with him "like old times." At first this friend tried to horn in and make it a threesome, but when I wouldn't tolerate it, he began his dirty work.

A few days ago he told Kenny a vicious lie about me. When I tried to explain to Kenny that there was no truth in the story he said, "I'm sorry, but one of you is lying and I think it is you."

Please tell me how I can get Kenny back. I am heart-sick, Ann. This is all so unfair.—BLUE BLUE NIGHTS

Dear Blue: You need Kenny like a giraffe needs a strep throat. A guy who would have so little confidence in his girl is not worth worrying about.

Dear Ann Landers: I am writing about the 14-year-old neighbor girl who baked the birthday cake for the man next door and gave him a big birthday kiss in front of everybody.

You seemed to think it was just ducky, and in fact you made his wife sound like a jealous old witch. I would like to acquaint you with the facts of life, Ann Landers. Fourteen-year-old girls aren't what they used to be.

Our daughter is 14 years old and could pass for 18 any day. If I ever caught her kissing the man next door whether it was his birthday or the 4th of July, I'd give her a crack she'd never forget. Our son is 15 and he'd better not kiss the neighbor lady either.

When my sister's husband ran off with their 15-year-old babysitter two years ago I changed all my notions about how old kids are before they get ideas. I think it's time YOU woke up and smelled (Continued on Page 10)

(Editor's Note: Mr. and Mrs. Sam Thomsen (Judy Wolf of Torrance) and infant daughter, Katy, arrived in Saigon, Viet Nam, in April. Mr. Thomsen is on a two year assignment with the State Department. The following is a Christmas letter from the Thomsens, to Mrs. Thomsen's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Don Wolf, describing the eventful year of 1963 in Saigon.)

Dear Mom and Dad:

The holidays have come upon us much faster than we expected and since so much has happened to us this past year, we decided upon this expedient way of reporting on the excitement of our lives in Saigon. We felt this was particularly necessary since we have received so many considerate inquiries from friends and relatives about our well being.

Our arrival at the end of April immediately preceded the beginning of six of the most eventful months in the history of independent Viet Nam. Since the news coverage of the events has been quite complete, we won't repeat all the details. Suffice it to say that the Buddhist incident in Hue on May 8th built up to the declaration of martial law on August 20th and led almost inevitably to the coup on November 1st.

The great tragedy of the events is that the government, by doing almost anything other than what it did, could have saved itself almost up to the day of the coup. The Buddhist situation was not a great problem even

after the Hue incident. By honestly admitting error and punishing the guilty officials, the government could have easily disposed of the problem. In early July when Diem publicly broadcasted a plea for reconciliation and unity, the Buddhists had almost lost their issue; public interest was almost non-existent. It was the government's raids on pagodas, August 20th, that brought the public (that is, the students, intellectuals and much of the military) together against the Diem Regime. The arrests of students, immediately following, brought Diem to his last mile as leader of this country. From then on rumors of coup were heard everywhere, attempts to convince Diem of the need for moderation and compromise went unheeded. Diem had, himself, made all of the accusations against him and his government come true.

On the 2nd of November, Saigon was jubilant. Students, soldiers and housewives were in the streets. Soldiers were bedecked with flowers and plied with fruits and sweets. The relief and joy were obviously widely and deeply felt. The new government has an immense task to win the war and establish a government that is responsive to the people's desires and responsible for their security. It has, however, more chance of succeeding than had the government recently deceased.

The night of the coup is one that we look back on with mixed emotions. We can smile now but it was at the time a frightening experience; particularly for Judy as Sam spent the night at the Embassy because the shelling

was too heavy for him to get through. Because there were no phones, Judy could only hope that he was safe. The shelling became increasingly loud during the early morning hours and for someone who had spent most of her life in the sheltered confines of the U.S., the fighting sounded much nearer than it was. However, the thing which caused the greatest concern was the "rockets" that were continually flying over the house. Much to the novice's embarrassment, she later discovered that these were only tracer bullets and that she and Katy had not needed to spend the night in the closet.

Generally speaking, we have found Saigon extremely civilized and though we must boil our water and avoid lettuce, we have had few health problems. (The most frequent one being colds caused from air-conditioning.) Katy has thrived in the tropics. She is now 11 months old, the possessor of four shiny teeth and a very attractive member of the walking race. She keeps two servants and two parents busy keeping her out of drawers and doors. However, she is usually a very popular member of the household and the star of our home movies. She resembles any number of people, depending on which side of the family you're listening to.

We have only just recently moved into permanent quarters. Our new home is lovely, spacious and well furnished. We have a large yard which is being used increasingly as the rains let up.

As mentioned, we have two servants, a cook and his

daughter who is "Boyesse" and babysitter. They are congenial and hard-working. Judy can give testimony as to their necessity as we were without them for several weeks and she spent approximately 16 hours a day boiling water, washing dishes and cooking in an unbelievably hot kitchen.

After three months of additional language training, Sam began work in the Political Section as a provisional reporter. Provisional reporting is a function unique to Viet Nam. Sam and two other officers spend their time in provinces within their respective areas of responsibility. Sam has 10 provinces immediately east, north and west of Saigon; three of them are among the most critical in the country. His job, in a sense, is to become the government expert on his area. In each province there are American military advisors and an economic development advisor, who are far more deeply involved in the day to day events in their provinces than Sam could ever be. Sam's job is to see from a bird's eye view how they are progressing in terms of overall goals and in comparison with other provinces. It is a challenging job, offering much freedom of action and judgment.

We have spent a very busy but happy 1963. We are looking forward to the New Year with our usual resolution of becoming more organized. If we finally accomplish this, you may be hearing from us again before 1965. We hope so!

Happy New Year to you and yours.



MAKE PLANS FOR TEA . . . First on its social calendar for the new year for the South Bay Hadassah chapter is a membership tea to be held Jan. 7 at the Walter Raine home. Planning the event are from left, Mmes. Nan Satton, membership chairman, Robert Breakstone, chapter president, and Harry Newman, new member and concert singer, who will entertain during the afternoon. (Herald Photo)

Installation Jan. 23

Auxiliary Re-elects Mrs. E. B. Thompson

Mrs. E. B. Thompson was re-elected president of the South Bay Hospital Auxiliary at a luncheon meeting held recently at the Plush Horse Inn. Installation of new officers has been scheduled for Jan. 23 at the Plush Horse.

Elected to serve with Mrs. Thompson were Mrs. Paul Yates, Manhattan Beach, first vice president, in charge of programs; Mrs. Charles Myers, Manhattan, second vice president and ways and means chairman; Mrs. Arthur Ross, third vice president, and membership chairman; Mrs. Robert Sease, Palos Verdes, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. William Taylor, Rolling Hills, financial secretary. The new president has been a resident of Hermosa Beach for the past 17 years. She

and her husband have an 8-year-old son, Craig.

Hobbies of Mrs. Thompson, who attended Pepperdine College, include flying, with a total of 250 hours, and brailing. She brailles books for the children in the Manhattan Meadows school sight saving program.

Prior to the past year as president, she served two years as recording secretary.



VALERIE TRUSCOTT . . . Accepts Ring (Stanfords Photo)

Couple Set June 13 For Nuptial Day

Miss Valerie Truscott will become the bride of Ronald Clifton Smith on June 13 at the St Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

The engagement and wedding plans of their daughter is being announced this morning by Mr. and Mrs. Earl R. Truscott, 25042 Feijoa, Lomita.

Parents of the future bridegroom are Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Smith, 27025 Woodbrook Rd., Palos Verdes Estates.

The bride-elect was graduated from Narbonne High School and Los Angeles Harbor College. She is a senior at Long Beach State College, majoring in English in preparation for a career as a technical writer.

Mr. Smith, a 1959 graduate of Morningside High School, received his AA degree from Los Angeles Harbor College. He is a business administration major at Long Beach State College and will be graduated in June. At State, he is affiliated with the Alpha Kappa Psi fraternity and the Accounting Society.

Spend Holidays In Hawaii

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Barbey, 3743 W. 170th St. returned New Year's Day from a vacation in Hawaii. The Barbeyes joined other members of the Northrup Travel Club and went by plane to the islands on Dec. 21. During the holiday visit, they toured the outer islands.



BETH KEALEY . . . To Wed Feb. 1 (Seeman Studio)

Beth Kealey Engaged To D. Parnell

Joining the ranks of the holiday brides-elect is Miss Beth Kealey, who received her engagement ring from Daniel Wayne Parnell on Christmas Day.

The formal announcement of their daughter's betrothal is made today by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald E. Kealey, 1604 Flower St.

The wedding is planned for Feb. 1 at 11 o'clock at the First Christian Church with the Rev. H. M. Sippel officiating.

The future bride was graduated from Torrance High School in 1962. She is now taking a dental assistant course at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Her fiance, son of Mrs. Jean Parnell of West Los Angeles, was graduated from St. Monica's High School in West Los Angeles. He is now enrolled at Riverside City College studying engineering.

Bensteads Mark 45th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Benstead entertained at an open house at their home, 1621 Beech Ave., on Christmas eve celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary.

On Christmas Day, they were guests at a family dinner at the home of their daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Byk, Linda and Bradley. They were joined by another daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Banks, and son, Mickey.



MRS. E. B. THOMPSON . . . Auxiliary President (Samuels Photo)



JAN MURDOCK . . . To Speak Here

Club Will Hear Expert On Fashion

Jan Murdock will present her highly acclaimed program, "Satire on Fashion," at the regular meeting of the Torrance Welcome Wagon Club, Thursday, Jan. 9, at 11:15 p.m. at the Redondo Beach Elks Club, 315 Esplanade, Redondo Beach.

Miss Murdock is a recognized authority in the field of fashion and personality development, has been on television, and is in constant demand as a lecturer and teacher. Her presentation is an unique combination of humor, inspiration and information.

The meeting is open to members, their guests and any other newcomers in the area.

Reservations may be made by contacting Mrs. Jess Browning at 22305 Ellinwood Drive. Transportation and baby sitting available.

Secretaries To Hear Talk On Narcotics Hadassah Plans Membership Tea

Bernard W. Casselman, M.D., will speak on Narcotics at the January dinner meeting of Airborne Chapter, National Secretaries Assn.

Dr. Casselman is a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Assn., and is connected with the following associated committees: Special Narcotic Committee, Special School and Public Health Committee, Panel on Emergency Specialist-Drug Addiction, and with the Beverly Hills District Los Angeles County Medical Assn.

He is a consultant to the Los Angeles City School's Teacher Training Program, and is qualified in all the Courts in the State of California to give expert medical testimony concerning drug addiction.

In addition, Dr. Casselman is associated with the University of California School of Medicine in the Department of Psychiatry, and is the author of numerous articles.

The meeting will be held at Fox Hills Country Club on Jan. 9, and is open to members of the secretarial profession.

South Bay Chapter of Hadassah will gather at the home of Mrs. Walter Raine on Tuesday, Jan. 7, at one o'clock for a paid-up membership tea.

Mrs. Ella Wohl, organization vice president of the southern Pacific Coast region of Hadassah, who recently returned from a trip abroad, will be the guest speaker.

A musical program by Fay Newman will be a highlight of the afternoon. Mrs. Newman's concert career began before her 13th birthday when she won two gold medals and was twice soloist at the Chicago conservatory.

She has also traveled on concert tours for the universities of Wisconsin, Kansas and Minnesota singing the leading roles in La Traviata, Carmen and Trovatore. She is now associated with the music departments of Lennox and Lawndale high schools and is

director of music at Temple Menorah.

Mrs. Nan Satton, membership chairman, has announced that the Hadassah membership increased from 57 in January, 1963, to 96 as of this month.

Hostesses for the tea will be Mmes. Ben Duben, Esther Kanaster, Gene Kaufman, Edward Lookman, Fannie Miller, Irving Miller and Nan Satton.

Hawaii Guests

During the holidays, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Benstead entertained at their house-guests for several days at their Beech Avenue home, Mr. Benstead's nephew and wife, Mr. and Mrs. George Benstead of Kailua, Hawaii. The visitor is in business in Hawaii. The islanders then spent some time at the Mammoth Mountains skiing.



NASSAU VACATION . . . Mr. and Mrs. Roy A. Shaw, 1305 Pacific Coast Hwy., Harbor City, returned recently from a vacation in Nassau. They made the cruise from Miami aboard the SS Bahama Star with the ship docking at Bay St. in quaint Nassau where they enjoyed shopping in the native straw market, swimming at the famed beaches and taking in Bahaman night life. (Eastern Steamship photo)